

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 131055

43

ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 JUSE-00 DEAE-00 AID-05 TRSE-00

L-03 /021 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TB:CLSTERMER:LRR  
APPROVED BY S/NM - AMBASSADOR VANCE  
S/NM - MR. RAFFERTY (DRAFT)  
EA/RA - MR. GALLAGHER (DRAFT)  
AID/EA - MR. TAYLOR (DRAFT)  
CUSTOMS - MR. O'MALIE (DRAFT)  
EA/TB - MR. ROBERTS  
AID/SER - MS. WAMPLER (DRAFT)  
S/NM - MR. COHEN (DRAFT)  
DEA - MR. CUSACK (SUBS)

----- 059758

P 051446Z JUN 75  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 131055

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, TH

SUBJECT: FY 75 NARCOTICS PROGRAM: CUSTOMS

REF:A.BANGKOK 9744, B. BANGKOK 10255

1. WE HAVE RECRUITED HERBERT COLLINS FOR A TWO-MONTH TDY ASSIGNMENT IN BANGKOK AS A MARINE MAINTENANCE SPECIALIST. A FORMER COAST-GUARD OFFICER WITH THIRTY YEARS SERVICE, INCLUDING EAST ASIAN EXPERIENCE, WE BELIEVE MR. COLLINS IS WELL-QUALIFIED FOR THE JOB. HE OBTAINED HIS PRESENT POSITION AS SMALL-BOAT PROCUREMENT OFFICER WITH U.S. CUSTOMS ON THE BASIS OF HIS EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE ABOUT SMALL BOAT OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT COLLINS WILL BE A VALUABLE MEMBER OF THE U.S. CUSTOMS PARTY IN  
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PAGE 02 STATE 131055

THAILAND.

2. BECAUSE OF WORK COMMITMENTS COLLINS WILL BE UNABLE TO LEAVE AS EARLY AS ORIGINALLY HOPED BUT HE PLANS NOW TO ARRIVE IN BANGKOK DURING WEEK OF JUNE 16. IN THE INTERIM, HE WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE CUSTOMS PROGRAM AND READY TO BEGIN WORK SHORTLY AFTER ARRIVAL.

3. WE ARE PLEASED TO LEARN THAT RTG CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES REACTED FAVORABLY TO THE CUSTOMS EVALUATION REPORT AND HAVE

ALREADY BEGUN TO TAKE POSITIVE STEPS TOWARD IMPLEMENTING ITS RECOMMENDATIONS. WHILE THE OBLIGATION OF AN ADDITIONAL 1.1 MILLION DOLS FY 75 FUNDS FOR BOAT PROCUREMENT BY JUNE 30 WILL NOT RPT NOT BE POSSIBLE (SEE BELOW), THE DRAFTING OF AN ACTION PLAN AT THIS STAGE WILL STILL BE USEFUL AND THE THAIS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO COMPLETE AND REFINE IT FOR FY 76 CONSIDERATION.

4. FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS WITH USOM DIRECTOR ROGER ERNST, WHO ADVISED THAT THE SPECIFIC EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS WERE NOT LIKELY TO BE KNOWN UNTIL LATE THIS CALENDAR YEAR, WE BELIEVED IT BEST TO SHIFT THE REMAINING FY 75 FUNDS DESIGNATED FOR THE RTG PROGRAM TO ANOTHER ON-GOING PROGRAM WHERE ADDITIONAL FUNDS WERE IMMEDIATELY NEEDED. ERNST EMPHASIZED THAT NOT ONLY WAS MAINTENANCE A PRESSING ISSUE, BUT EQUALLY IMPORTANT WAS THE ENTIRE CONCEPT OF THAI BOAT OPERATIONS AND USE FOR INTERCEPTION PURPOSES AS LT. CDR. WALLACE IN HIS SEPARATE EVALUATION REPORT COMMENTED UPON. IN THIS REGARD, MISSION SHOULD CONSIDER WHETHER THAIS MAY REQUIRE IN ADDITION TO MAINTENANCE SPECIALIST, AN OPERATIONS AND TACTICS SPECIALIST TO AID IN DESIGNING EFFECTIVE STRATEGIC MIX OF EQUIPMENT.

5. WE FURTHER AGREE WITH ERNST THAT USG OBJECTIVE SHOULD NOT BE TO TRANSFORM THE THAI CUSTOMS MARINE ASSETS INTO A REPLICA OF A US-ORGANIZED AND OPERATED CUSTOMS MARINE FLEET, BUT RATHER TO UPGRADE THAI EFFECTIVENESS AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE IN COPING WITH A PROBLEM THAT HELPS SATISFY OUR CONCERNS AS WELL AS THEIR OWN.

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PAGE 03 STATE 131055

6. FINALLY, THE PREVIOUSLY ORDERED FIVE TSUNAMI 23 FT. SEACRAFT PURSUIT BOATS HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED FOR SHIPMENT ON JUNE 7 FROM NEW ORLEANS ABOARD THE S.S. GREEN HARBOR. KISSINGER

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**TAGS:** SNAR, APER, TH, (COLLINS, HERBERT)  
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